ARTS

Pages 8 – Artist Ivan Montoya's New Exhibit, "Semillas"

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

Page 10 – College Basketball Media Days!!!

El Dia de Los Muertos: Death is Not the End

Photos and story by
Elena Dolores Solano

Death is never easy, but an Ofrenda and El Dia de Los Muertos, also known as The Day of the Dead, reminds us that death is not the end.

El Dia de Los Muertos is a day to remember and honor those who have gone before us. An Ofrenda, also called an offering or altar, is a concrete, tangible way in which we remember their laughter and stories. It is a poignant way to tell their story through the foods they loved, the music they listened to and the passion they had for living.

It is believed that El Dia de Los Muertos and Ofrendas began approximately 3,000 years ago with the Aztec people of central Mexico. Its origins were based on the observance of Miccailhuitl–a ritual of honoring and connecting with the dead. That ritual combined with Catholicism evolved into a way of celebrating and honoring those who have gone before us.

Joseph Zarazua, a longtime community member and president of the parish council at Ste. Anne de Detroit recently told me that by building an Ofrenda, we mourn, but we also celebrate. Each year, Mr. Zarazua and I build an Ofrenda in the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit.

This year, Mr. Zarazua also built one in the chapel; it is dedicated to his family and friends. He believes that "if you ever have trouble lamenting the loss of a loved one, there is nothing better that releases you of that pain than building an Ofrenda. Each item on the Ofrenda is so important because it becomes part of the joy of every memory you have of that person."

Mr. Zarazua put a cup of coffee and a spoon on his Ofrenda because it reminds him of the mischievous side of his father. He told me that his father would clink the spoon to annoy his mother as a joke. "To me, an Ofrenda is cathartic."

Mr. Zarazua reminded me that when we build Ofrendas together, we learn each other's stories.

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Ofrenda at the Basilica de Ste. Anne's in Southwest Detroit

La concejal de Detroit Gabriela Santiago-Romero
en su primer año de gestión

Por Mickey Lyon

Hace apenas un año, Gabriela Santiago-Romero asumió el cargo de Representante del Distrito 6 para el Concejo Municipal de Detroit, antecedida por su amiga y mentora Raquel Castañeda-López.

La nueva concejal no ha parado desde entonces, ha sido un año lleno de primicias para esta residente del suroeste de Detroit que ha trabajado por los derechos humanos, presionando por la justicia ambiental, la vivienda asequible y la seguridad pública. Ella ha comentado para EL CENTRAL que ha sido un año lleno de aprendizaje en el cargo que está desempeñando y que aún le queda mucho trabajo que hacer por su distrito.

La profesión de Santiago-Romero antes de postularse para el cargo la preparó para el servicio público. Como Licenciada en Trabajo Social, ocupó varios puestos en organizaciones sin fines de lucro en Michigan. Santiago-Romero organizó el grupo de asistencia sin fines de lucro Southwest Detroit Community Care al comienzo de la pandemia de COVID-19 para poder reunir recursos comunitarios para la adquisición alimentos, pañales, ayuda monetaria, etc. Antes de eso, trabajó como Directora de Políticas e Investigación en la organización We the People Michigan, un grupo de base que aboga por las familias de clase media y baja; también laboró en las oficinas de la entonces representante estatal de Michigan, ahora senadora estatal Stephanie Chang, y Warren Evans, ejecutivo del condado de Wayne. Gabriela Santiago-Romero legitima su trabajo con su predecesora Castañeda-López como la inspiración detrás de su candidatura al cargo en el año 2021.

Su primer año ha sido muy activo. Es miembro del Comité Permanente de Presupuesto, Finanzas y Auditoría, y es la primera latina en regir un comité permanente de Salud y Seguridad Pública. "Llegué al Concejo Municipal muy nerviosa, pero no es cosa del otro mundo. Es algo manejable", dice. "Es bastante, no voy a mentir. Y no, no lo sé todo. Pero las respuestas están ahí, puedes encontrarlas y, si trabajas duro, puedes descifrarlas".

Los tres grandes retos

Santiago-Romero ha centrado su primer año en tres prioridades, dice: vivienda asequible, mitigación de impactos ambientales y seguridad. "Cada vez que tocaba la puerta de las personas de la comunidad, su principal preocupación era la delincuencia que teníamos y lo costosas que se estaban poniendo las cosas en especial las casas y los alquileres", dice. "La gente siente que la están haciendo a un lado" en favor de los residentes más nuevos, dice ella.

Continúa en la pág.6

Detroit Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero
Looking Back at Year One

By Mickey Lyons

Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero speaking at the Groundbreaking of the Brooke on Bagley in Southwest Detroit

Just a year ago, Gabriela Santiago-Romero stepped up as District 6 Representative for Detroit City Council, having taken over where her friend and mentor Raquel Castañeda-Lopez left off. Santiago-Romero hasn't stopped since, in a whirlwind year of firsts for the longtime advocate and Southwest Detroit resident, as she has pushed for environmental justice, affordable housing and public safety. She has learned a lot in her first year in office, she tells EL CENTRAL, and has plenty of work left to do for her district.

Santiago-Romero's career before her run for office prepared her for public service. A social worker, she has held several positions in nonprofit work in Michigan.

cont on pg.6

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Es importante que todos voten el 8 de noviembre o antes.

EL PODER DE FORMAR EL FUTURO DE SU COMUNIDAD ESTÁ EN SUS MANOS.

Este noviembre, vota para elegir:

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GOVERNOR

Dana Nessel
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Garlin Gilchrist II
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Justice Richard Bernstein
MI SUPREME COURT

Jocelyn Benson
SECRETARY OF STATE

Kyra Harris Bolden
MI SUPREME COURT

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Dia de Los Muertos

Con't from pg. 1

We learn community stories. Each year Mr. Zarazua and I dedicate the main Ofrenda to an event that happened in our country or in the world. This year's Ofrenda is dedicated to the children, young adults and men and women in Uvalde, Texas, Oxford, Michigan and Buffalo, New York – lives that were taken in mass shootings. There are sixty butterflies attached to two trellises that adorn the Ofrenda. The butterflies serve as a reminder of new life and the possibility of change.

He pointed out "Every time we build one, we think of something to dedicate it to, it's big, but then people come to the Ofrenda with their pictures and objects, and we see the suffering they were dealing with, but we also see the joy they had in their lives."

Laura Barroso-Olmeda exemplified that joy while living in pain. Ms. Barroso-Olmeda's door on 23rd street was always open. She had many health problems and recently passed away. But it is her sense of humor, her love for others, her passion for baile folklorico, and her stories for which she is remembered. She was a proud graduate of Cass-Technical High School and Wayne State University. In my many visits with her, we talked about her health, and our families.

But most of all, we laughed. She was also active in many community agencies throughout Detroit.

Several years ago, I visited the Ofrendas at Garaje Cultural. The Ofrendas were large and stark; each one had a theme and was decorated with intricate details of a loved one's life. One Ofrenda was white with flowers hanging from the ceiling, soft pink highlighted a chair, and a dresser held precious objects. The memory of it has stayed with me for years.

Irma Landin-Obregon, the former principal of Maybury Elementary School shared that many years ago Casa de Unidad invited her to create an Ofrenda in memory of her sister Margarita Valdez, a community activist, social worker and educator. She felt overwhelmed when her sister passed away. Ms. Landin-Obregon continued: "I sorted through all her things trying to find the things that represented her and what she meant to our family and community. Creating the Ofrenda really helped me to get to know my sis ever better. But, it also helped me to realize that for an Ofrenda to be meaningful, you have to share the things that represent the person you are remembering by talking about them to others. That is how you keep their spirit alive."

Southwest Detroit is known for many things; food, culture, churches and the unique makeup of schools, parks and a multicultural population. We also have a community that embraces El Dia de Los Muertos and Ofrendas. The tradition runs deep in our roots and every year there are numerous celebrations.

There are numerous ofrendas to visit and ponder and there are events happening throughout Southwest Detroit to celebrate El Dia de Los Muertos. Be sure and visit the ofrendas at Prince Valley Supermarket and the local restaurants. There is also a fun run on November 5th sponsored by the Southwest Detroit Business Association.

My mother, Rosa Solano, taught me to die well. When I leave this earth, I hope it is with the same quiet grace and dignity that encompassed her death. She lived a full but hard life. As a child, she worked as a migrant worker, shelled pecans and did other people's laundry.

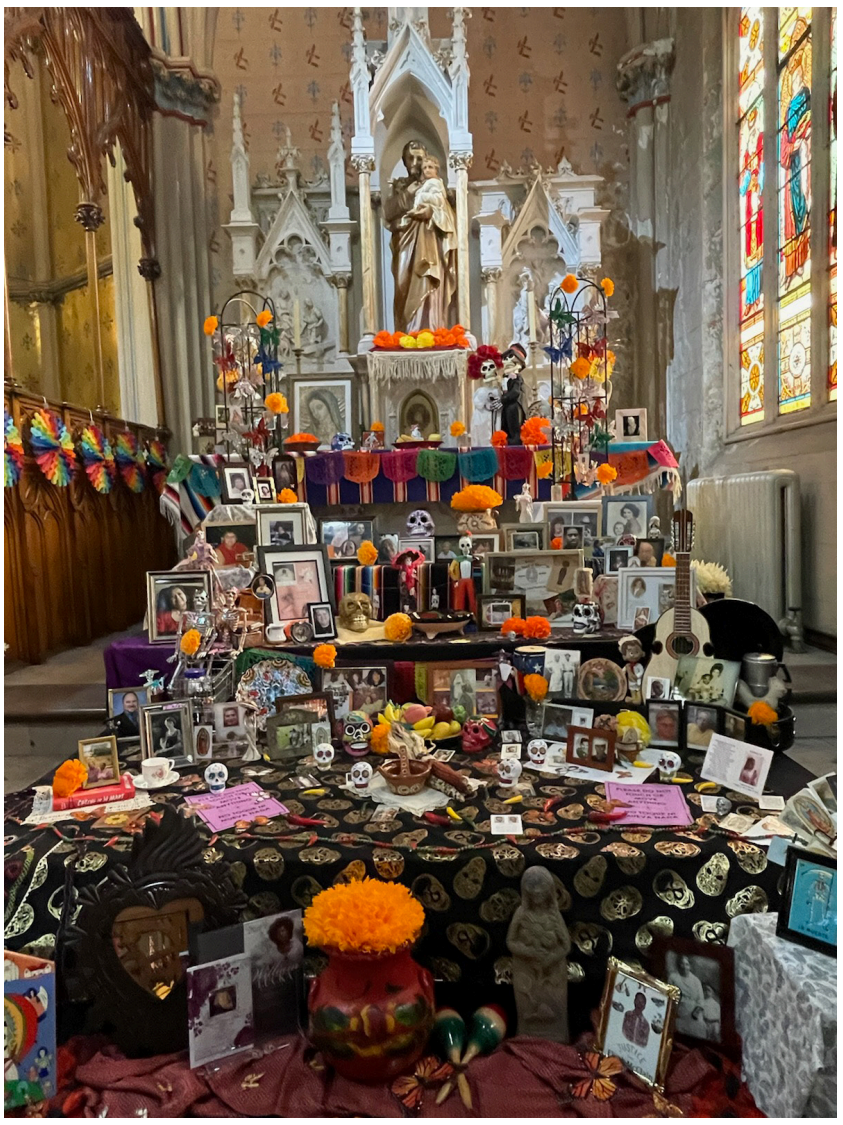
But she also loved bright colors, flowers and books. She was an avid gardener. Each fall, as summer came to a close, she carefully collected seeds from her plants and replanted them in the spring. In the middle of the chaos of fourteen children, a workaholic husband, and the industry that closed in all around us, she created a haven.

My mother died en la madrugada–at dawn. The chair she died in faced our parish, Ste. Anne's. She continued to make her choices even after death. She chose the dress she wanted to be buried in. She chose the music she wanted for her funeral mass. She chose her casket and the resting spot for her body at a plot next to my father.

She died well and showed me that dying is a process. It is not a solitary act. It is a plan, a call, and a final place. But it is not the end. It should be done with thought, prayer, dignity, and deliberate intention. She was far from afraid of death. She walked towards the great beyond. She was taken by a constant challenge to grow and change, to forgive and love, to learn and become more of who you are supposed to be–in this life and the life to come.

El Dia de Los Muertos is a celebration of those who we miss, love and admire. While we mourn, we also celebrate, and remember the friends and family that we continue to love. We honor them with an Ofrenda, intentionally creating a space where we can laugh and cry at all that was, and all we have because of their love.

"I get help with the Ofrenda from Joseph Zarazua, Mary Andrade, and Sonia Roldán de Jesús. I curate, archive, collect and build the Ofrenda every year but I couldn't do it without them", says Elena Dolores Solano.



Special World's Cultures

El Salvador

El Salvador

El Salvador is one of the seven Central American countries known for its spectacular natural beauty. Its most important agricultural products are Coffee, Cotton and Sugar Cane.

The capital San Salvador has buildings that show the architectural projects of macroinvestment in the city. With a privileged location between mountains and wetlands, very close to Lake Ilopango. In the south of San Salvador, less than 10 km from the capital city, is Planes Renderos, a

region with natural beauty at 1,000 meters above sea level. Here is where most of the ecotourism activities of the city are concentrated due to the mountainous and climatic characteristics.

As well as Planes Renderos, nearby is the Department of La Paz with its river delta. To the north, close to the border with Honduras, you can also see the Eramon Mountain.

The territory of El Salvador has been inhabited by Mayan peoples until the eleventh century of our era, then the Nahua peoples, until the arrival of the Europeans with the foundation of the colonies.

In the 19th century, with the independence movements, the Federal Republic of Central America was formed in 1824, in which it served as one of the five states.

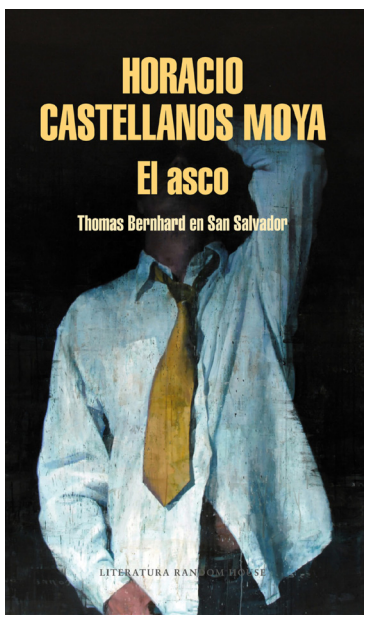
However, conflicts with Guatemalan centralism prompted a new uprising in 1841 that led to the emancipation of the Central American confederation. Since then, Salvadoran citizens have appealed to defend their territory and identity despite difficulties in terms of governance.

Diles que lo viste en EL CENTRAL
Tell them you saw it in EL CENTRAL

Horacio Castellanos Moya
- Writer -

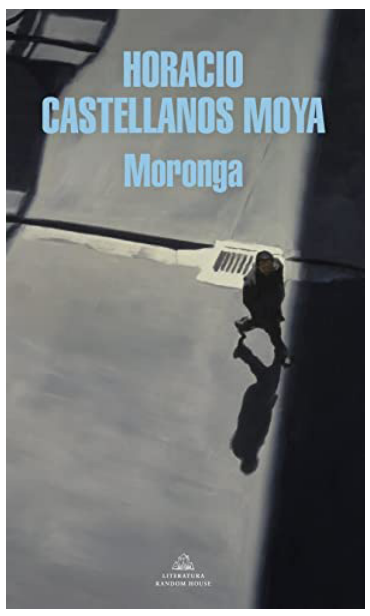
Horacio Castellanos Moya was born in 1957 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He is a Central American writer raised in El Salvador. He studied at York University, in Canada. In 1991 he returned to San Salvador to continue his career as a journalist and writer.

In 1997 with his novel **El Asco: Thomas Bernhard en San Salvador,** he criticized the political system of El Salvador with such sharpness that it led him into self-exile after constant death threats. He was in different Latin American cities, including Mexico City where he lived for more than 10 years.



He has published texts of various literary genres; however, he is mostly recognized for his journalistic and literary work, mainly for his novels.

His work, as he has stated, has a greater influence of music, leaving his mark as a writer Imitation of Voices, since between each of his books there is not only a change of character, but also of narrative style, as if they changed author.



The Tamed Man, his latest novel published by Random House Literature this 2022, takes up from his novel Moronga the same character: Erasmo Aragón, deepening with this text the mental states, mainly paranoia and uprooting due to a forced displacement from the homeland. The characters in this novel have a curve that develops the transformation of the character's temper that goes from denial due to false accusations to dependence on the other.

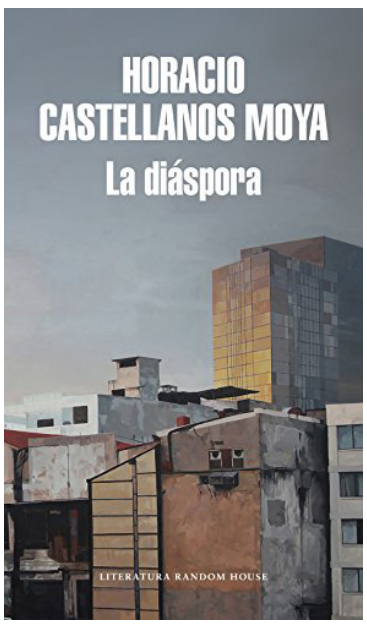
In the texts of Horacio Castellanos Moya we find an author politically committed through a literary discourse that confronts the identity of the communities forced to leave for the sake, not of finding a better life, but of fleeing or taking refuge away from the deplorable places where they were.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

El Salvador

Horacio Castellanos Moya - Escritor -

Horacio Castellanos Moya nacido en 1957 en Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Es un escritor centroamericano criado en El Salvador. Estudió en la Universidad de York, en Canadá. En 1991 volvió a San Salvador para continuar con su carrera como escritor publicando su novela **El Asco: Thomas Bernhard en San Salvador.** Novela en la que criticó el sistema político de El Salvador con tal agudeza lo que lo llevó a autoexiliarse después de constantes amenazas de muerte. Vivió en diferentes ciudades latinoamericanas, entre ellas en la Ciudad de México donde residió durante más de 10 años. Ha publicado textos de diversos géneros literarios, sin embargo, es mayormente reconocido por su labor periodística y literaria, principalmente por sus novelas.

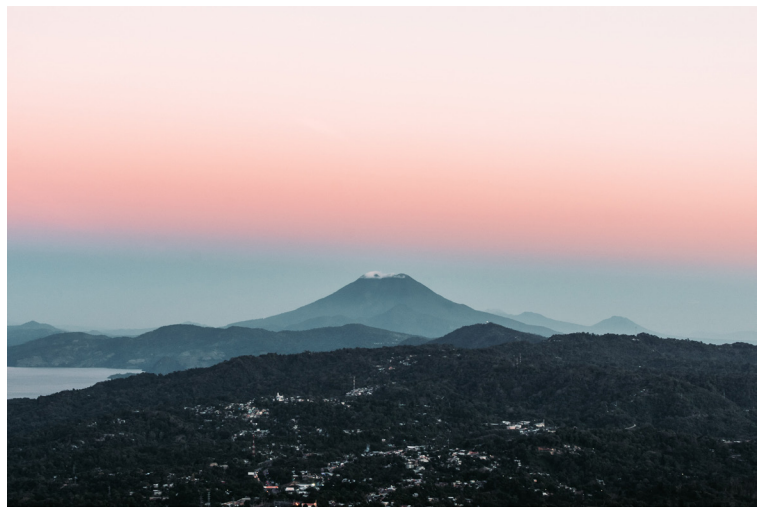


Su obra, según él ha afirmado tiene mayor influencia de música dejando su huella como escritor Imitador de Voces, pues sus obras no sólo cambian de personaje, sino también de estilo narrativo, como si cambiaran de autor.

El Hombre Amansado, su última novela publicada por Literatura Random House este 2022, retoma de su novela Moronga al mismo personaje de Erasmo Aragón, profundizando en este texto los estados mentales, principalmente la paranoia y el desarraigo a causa de un forzoso desplazamiento del lugar de origen. Los personajes en esta novela tienen una curva que desarrolla la transformación del carácter del personaje que va de la negación por acusaciones falsas hasta la dependencia del otro.

En los textos de Horacio Castellanos Moya encontramos un autor comprometido políticamente a través de un discurso literario que enfrenta la identidad de las comunidades obligadas a partir en aras, no de encontrar una vida mejor, sino de huir o refugiarse de los estados deplorables en que se encuentra su lugar de origen.

El Salvador



El Salvador es uno de los siete países centroamericanos conocido por sus espectaculares bellezas naturales. Sus productos agrícolas más importantes son el Café, el Algodón y la Caña de Azúcar.

La capital San Salvador tiene edificaciones que muestran los proyectos arquitectónicos

de macroinversión en la ciudad. Con una ubicación privilegiada entre montañas y humedales, muy cerca del lago Ilopango. En el sur de San Salvador, a menos de 10 km de la ciudad capital se encuentra Planes Renderos, una región con bellezas naturales a 1,000 metros sobre el nivel del mar. Aquí se concentran la mayoría de las actividades ecoturísticas de la ciudad por las características montañosas y climáticas.

Así como Planes Renderos, cerca se encuentra el Departamento de La Paz con su delta de ríos. Al norte, pegado a la frontera con Honduras, se puede ver también el cerro Eramon.

El territorio de El Salvador ha sido habitado por pueblos mayas hasta el siglo XI de nuestra era, luego los pueblos nahuas, hasta la llegada de los europeos con la fundación de las colonias.

En el siglo XIX con los movimientos independentistas de España, se conformó la República Federal de Centro América en 1824 en la que fungió como uno de los cinco estados.

Sin embargo, los conflictos con el centralismo guatemalteco impulsaron en 1841 a un nuevo levantamiento que propició la emancipación de la confederación centroamericana, desde entonces, los ciudadanos salvadoreños han apelado en defensa de su territorio e identidad pese a las dificultades en términos de gobernanza.

Sigue cada semana en **EL CENTRAL** nuestro

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,

by Mariana Ayón RV

Detroit Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero

Con't from pg. 1

Santiago-Romero organized the nonprofit aid group Southwest Detroit Community Care in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to bring together community resources for food, diapers, money and other assistance. Before that, she worked as a policy and research director at We the People Michigan, a grassroots group that advocates for working-class families. Santiago-Romero has worked in the offices of then Michigan State Representative, now State Senator Stephanie Chang, and Warren Evans, Wayne County Executive. She credits her work with predecessor Castañeda-Lopez as the inspiration behind her run for office in 2021.

Her first year has been an active one. She serves on the Budget, Finance and Audit Standing Committee, and is the first Latina to chair a standing committee, Public Health and Safety. "I came into City Council really nervous, but it's not rocket science. It's very manageable," she says. "It's a lot, I'm not going to lie. And no, I don't know everything. But the answers are there, you can find them, and if you work hard you can figure them out."

The Big 3

Santiago-Romero has focused her first year on three priorities, she says: affordable housing, mitigating environmental impacts, and safety. "Every time that I knocked on people's doors, their main concern was just the amount of crime that we had, and how expensive things were getting — primarily homes and rents," she says. "Folks do feel like they're being pushed aside" in favor of newer residents, she says.

As head of the Public Health and Safety committee, Santiago-Romero has been a vocal opponent to the controversial ShotSpotter program. ShotSpotter is a remote gunfire detection software installed in high-crime areas that alerts police; Santiago-Romero and two other council members, Mary Waters and Angela Whitefield-Calloway, argue that the program is an example of racial profiling and targets low-income neighborhoods unfairly. Santiago-Romero instead advocates for more nuanced police responses to mental health calls, and for expanded police training. "I'm really focused on supporting our officers, in having them focus on the violent crime and having mental health professionals be the ones that respond to those nonviolent mental health calls," she says.

One of her highest priorities on Council is environmental justice. District 6 is home to the most polluted zip code in Michigan, 48217. The asthma rate for Detroit adults is 46% higher than in the rest of Michigan; in Southwest Detroit, asthma hospitalizations for children have increased dramatically in recent years. Construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge has added to residents' worries about pollutants and air quality, says Santiago-Romero. "It's scary for a lot of us to think of more industry and trucks coming through. I really want [Detroit] to be at the forefront of a truck route with green spaces, pollution mitigations, more trees, more green buffering, so that if we're going to have industry, we also have healthy communities."

No Idling

Santiago-Romero is working on a long-term truck idling ordinance. "I get pictures from residents, saying 'There's a truck just hiding down in the corner of my street,'" she says. "And they're literally just sitting there with the truck on, eating or sleeping or waiting for whatever they have to wait for." This idling spews carbon monoxide and other pollutants into the air on residential streets, and Santiago-Romero and other residents worry that once the bridge is operating the pollution will continue — or worsen.

"With DPW, and our planning departments, we look at short term mitigations, whether that's making streets smaller, making it harder for trucks to turn on certain areas, better signage that says 'don't go through the street, go through that streets,'" she says. "Because we can do that right now. I mean, we reroute traffic all the time for construction or for emergency reasons. So we're trying to say, 'this is an emergency, the fact that residents have 100 trucks going through their homes a day.'"

In the short term, Santiago-Romero has worked to ensure language services for Detroit residents. One recent achievement she is proud of is the translation service offered to Detroiters. All formal City Council sessions now have a specific Zoom video conference room with a dedicated Spanish language translator.

As for what's next, Santiago-Romero says she'll continue her work for District 6 residents. "I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity" to serve, she says. "A lot of what we're doing is to include others and to engage others in the process. So I just really hope that people follow us along…and try to plug in, because that's what makes me better in my job. It allows for better local government, if People are engaged, holding us accountable, if they know how they themselves can be the checks and balances to our work."

Mickey Lyons is a Hamtramck-based journalist and author. She specializes in Detroit history, and has published articles in Hour Detroit, The Detroit News, The Detroit Free Press, and NBC News

La concejal de Detroit Gabriela Santiago-Romero

Con't from pg. 1

Como jefa del comité de Salud y Seguridad Pública, Santiago-Romero se ha opuesto abiertamente al controvertido programa ShotSpotter, el cual es un software de detección remota de disparos instalado en áreas de alta criminalidad que alerta a la policía; Santiago-Romero y otras dos concejales, Mary Waters y Angela Whitefield-Calloway, argumentan que ese programa es un ejemplo perfilado racial y apunta injustamente a los vecindarios de bajos ingresos. En cambio, Santiago-Romero aboga por respuestas policiales más matizadas a las llamadas de salud mental y por una mayor capacitación policial. "Realmente estoy enfocada en apoyar a nuestros oficiales, en hacer que se centren en el crimen violento y que los profesionales de la salud mental sean los que respondan a esas llamadas de salud mental no violentas", dice ella.

Una de sus mayores prioridades en el Concejo es la justicia ambiental. El Distrito 6 alberga el código postal más contaminado de Michigan, 48217. La tasa de asma para los adultos de Detroit es un 46 % más alta que en el resto de Michigan; en el suroeste de Detroit, las hospitalizaciones de niños por asma han aumentado drásticamente en los últimos años. La construcción del Puente Internacional Gordie Howe se ha sumado a las preocupaciones de los residentes sobre los contaminantes y la calidad del aire, dice Santiago-Romero. "A muchos de nosotros nos da miedo pensar en la llegada de más industrias y camiones. Realmente quiero que [Detroit] esté a la vanguardia de una ruta de camiones con espacios verdes, mitigaciones de la contaminación, más árboles, más zonas verdes, para que, si vamos a tener industria, también tengamos comunidades saludables".

Sin Paradas de Camiones

Santiago-Romero está trabajando en una ordenanza para evitar las paradas de camiones dentro de las zonas residenciales a largo plazo. "Recibo fotos de los residentes que dicen: 'Hay un camión escondido en la esquina de mi calle'", dice. "Y literalmente están sentados allí con el camión encendido, comiendo o durmiendo o esperando lo que sea que tengan que esperar". Esta inactividad arroja monóxido de carbono y otros contaminantes al aire en las calles residenciales, y Santiago-Romero y otros residentes temen que una vez que el puente esté en funcionamiento, la contaminación continuará, o empeorará.

"Con DPW y nuestros departamentos de planificación, analizamos las mitigaciones a corto plazo, ya sea hacer las calles más pequeñas, dificultar que los camiones giren en ciertas áreas, mejor señalización que diga 'No hay paso por esta calle, gire en "tal" calle. ,'" ella dice. "Porque podemos hacer eso ahora mismo. Quiero decir, desviamos el tráfico todo el tiempo por motivos de construcción o de emergencia. Así que estamos tratando de hacer ver que, 'esto es una emergencia, el hecho de que los residentes tengan 100 camiones pasando por sus casas al día'".

Gabriela Santiago-Romero ha trabajado para garantizar servicios lingüísticos para los residentes de Detroit, sintiéndose orgullosa del logro de los servicios de traducción que se tienen actualmente para los habitantes. Todas las sesiones formales del Concejo Municipal ahora tienen una sala de videoconferencia en Zoom específica con un traductor dedicado al español.

Refiriéndose a sus futuros retos, Santiago-Romero expresó que continuará el trabajo por los residentes del Distrito 6. "Estoy increíblemente agradecida por la oportunidad de servir", dice. "Mucho de lo que estamos haciendo es incluir a otros en el proceso. Así que realmente espero que la gente se involucre... y trate de conectarse, porque eso es lo que me hace mejor en mi trabajo. Si las personas están comprometidas, haciéndonos responsables, si saben cómo ellos mismos pueden ser los controles y contrapesos de nuestro trabajo nos permite que tengamos un mejor gobierno local".

Mickey Lyons es un periodista y autor de Hamtramck. Se especializa en la historia de Detroit y ha publicado artículos en Hour Detroit, The Detroit News, The Detroit Free Press y NBC News.

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1 oldest, largest and only bi-lingual Hispanic news. Minority (Hispanic) and woman owned • Multi-year winner of Jose Marti National Award for excellence in Editorial and Design. Published in Metro Detroit since 1988.

EL CENTRAL informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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Planet Detroit Honors 2022 Climate Leaders

By Mickey Lyons
First printed by Planet Detroit

Thomasenia Weston at home. Photo by Nick Hagen.

Detroit is full of leaders — look in every neighborhood, every business, and every nonprofit, and you'll find them. They're usually humble and want to give credit to someone else. Without their efforts, we'd be lessened.

That's why Planet Detroit decided to honor the people and organizations making a difference in our local climate response. So we asked our readers to nominate the folks they saw making a real difference. We are thrilled to celebrate the following leaders this year:

Thomasenia Weston, Neighborhood Leader

Thomasenia Weston refuses to let her voice be drowned out in the clamor of noise and pollution from the trucks in her southwest Detroit neighborhood. The longtime resident speaks up against noise pollution in an often underserved part of the city. The noise isn't the only pollution in the area; Weston calls the smog and exhaust belched out into her neighborhood "pollution terrorism."

Watson, her daughter, and her grandchildren all suffer from asthma. She and other community members have monitored pollution levels and spoken on behalf of other residents of the bridge area to push for more stringent monitoring and controls by city and state governments.

Mickey Lyons is a Hamtramck-based freelance journalist and author. She has written about climate change for Planet Detroit and Hour Detroit. Her work appears in the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press, VinePair and NBC News, among other publications.

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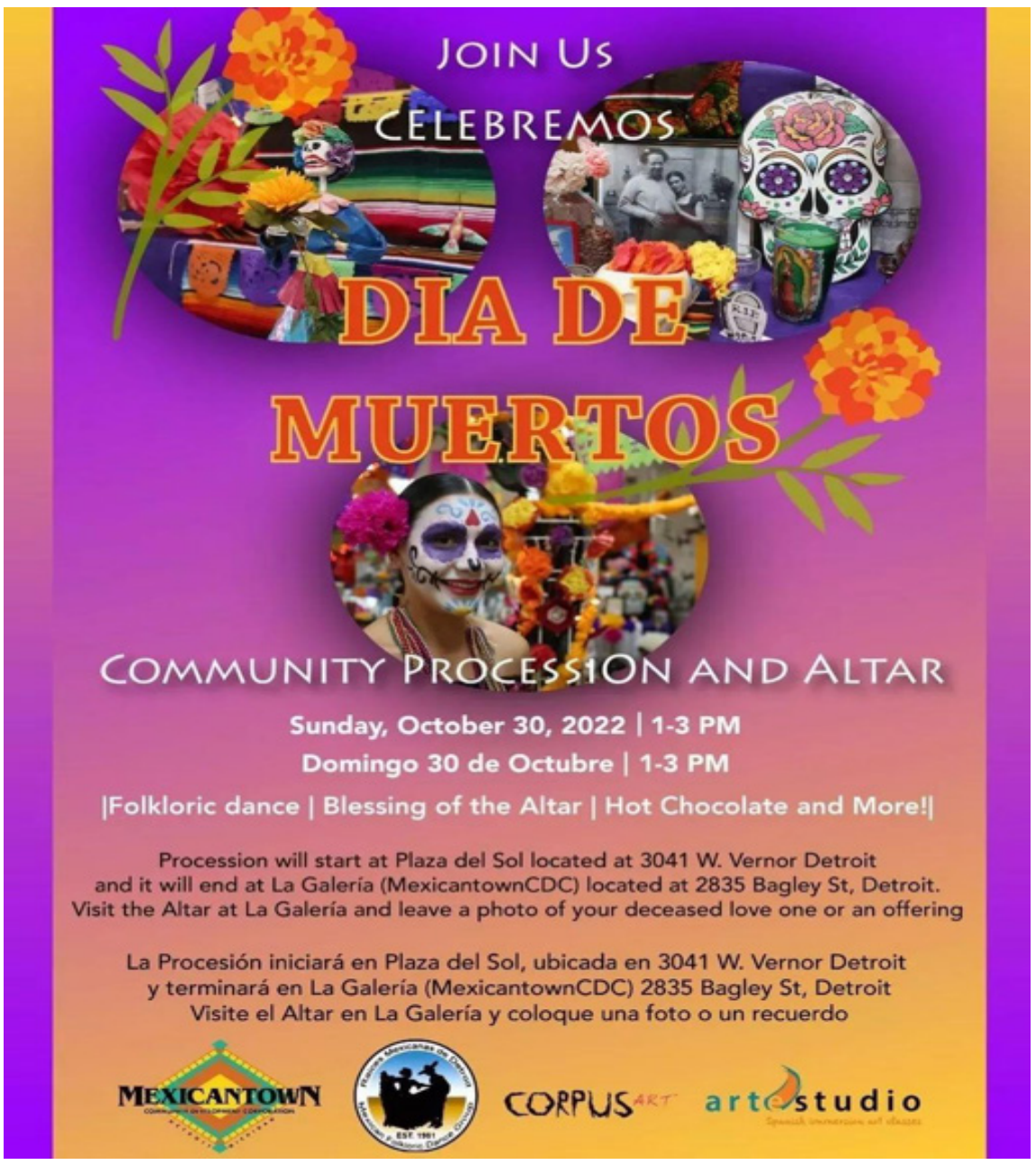
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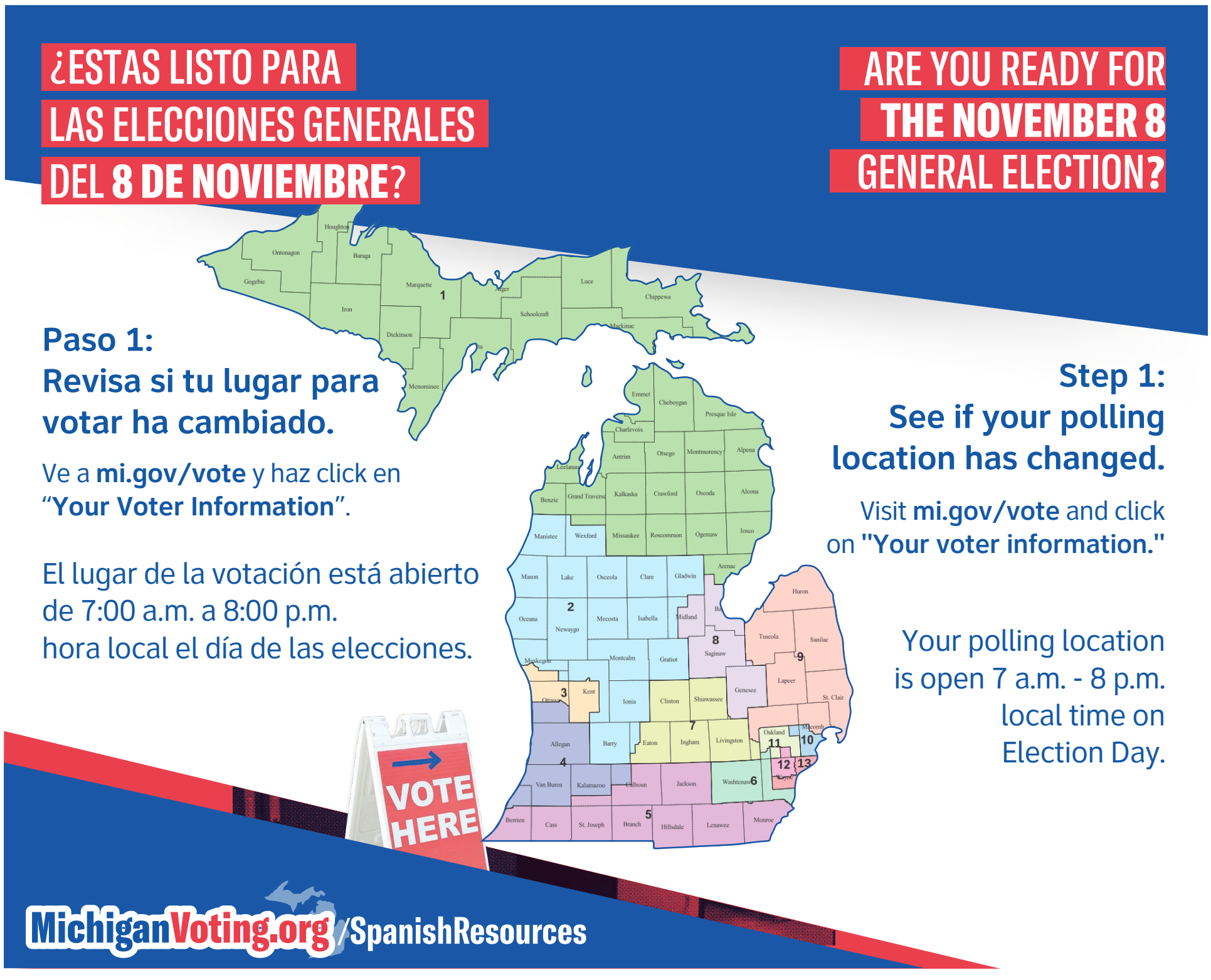
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Seeds Today, Flowers Tomorrow

Photo credit Alejandro Ugalde

Artist Ivan Montoya's New Exhibit, 'Semillas,' Reaps New Life From an Old Saying

By Ofelia Saenz

As visitors to Playground Detroit enter the gallery, it's hard not to be drawn in by the mural toward the back of the space. Tetris-like blocks of color in a limited palette, each showcasing a natural motif, plant the seed for what the viewer is about to experience. Rising above the room like the column of a tree, the mural stands surrounded by the pieces that make up artist Ivan Montoya's new solo exhibition of paintings, "Semillas." The exhibit runs now through Nov. 19, with an artist talk on Nov. 17.

The show title and theme were inspired by the Spanish saying, "hoy semillas, mañana flores," which translates to "seeds today, flowers tomorrow." In the exhibit, Montoya, who was born in Chihuahua, Mexico and emigrated to the U.S. with his family when he was five years old, pays homage to the sacrifices and dreams of immigrant families. "Semillas," the Spanish word for "seeds," explores the dynamics between first and second-generation immigrants and their parents.

"That saying can be a driving force for so many things," says Montoya. "I feel like the pieces I'm painting are lessons, or semillas, I've taken on throughout my childhood. They just feel like things I need to share."

"Semillas" seamlessly draws influence from many points along the Mexican ancestral timeline. Rounded shapes and scrunched forms recall the Mexican muralists of the first half of the twentieth century, but also remind us of figures fit onto panels in the art of the Mayans and Aztecs.

Montoya pulls from a breadth of color in the culture, not just painters, but artisans, textile makers, wood carvers and others.

"I try to pay respect to those influences and bring those colors forward in a contemporary way," he says.

In "Semillas," Montoya's paintings often tell stories through allegory rather than direct narrative, and it calls out the mysticism intertwined with Mexican culture.

"A lot of my work is in a space that's mystical, more fantastical and folkloric," he says.

In the piece "Setting of the Altar," Montoya showcases a family carrying a wooden table teaming with food one might find in a Mexican household for Sunday dinner. There's a pot that could be filled with posole, and a basket laid with elote. A molcajete holds peppers and tomatoes ready to be roasted and ground to salsa. There's a bottle of Valentina and one of Don Julio. There's everything familiar and foreign, as the figures carry the table reverently on their shoulders, the way a Virgin de Guadalupe might be carried in procession through the streets on Dec. 12.

Montoya says he named the piece "Setting of the Altar" because for the immigrant family, gathering for meals can sometimes feel sacred.

"The food they make, the dishes and recipes they bring with them are like offerings," he says.

The visual language throughout "Semillas" is distinctly Mexican, even "Rito de Noche," which is perhaps the biggest departure from the other paintings. Electric blue and lime green flames pulse between dancing figures that look like they could be lit by blacklight. But even though the environment of the piece is far more contemporary feeling, the story is not out of place with the other paintings. According to Montoya, the painting is a nod to the special camaraderie that first and second-generation immigrant young people feel with those who have the same lived experience as them – those who live in, as Montoya says, "the in-between space." "Rito de Noche" is a place without inhibitions – a place without airs.

"You're comfortable because you're letting go," says Montoya. "You're not playing a role. You're not being a son or daughter, or you're not trying to assimilate or speak perfect English or be a certain person. You're just letting go and being around people that are also letting go."

The piece, he says, was inspired by his childhood connections with other Mexican American and Latino kids from throughout Metro Detroit. They were often connected through the limited number of Spanish-speaking masses offered throughout the area's Catholic churches. Families often drove outside their communities to get to a Spanish-speaking mass, which allowed their children to form and grow bonds with other kids that they may not have otherwise met.

"We all kind of grew up and grew into adulthood together," he says. "When we got together, we were speaking Spanglish, and making jokes that only we would get because they were kind of nodding to very specific things in Mexican American culture. That kind of belonging wasn't forced. This circumstance was the only one where you could really just be, and not worry about who you are or who you might not be."

For more information about the exhibit, visit www.PlaygroundDetroit.com or visit the artist's website at www.IvanMontoya.art. For the most current show updates, follow the artist and the gallery on Instagram: @imontoya_ @playdetroit

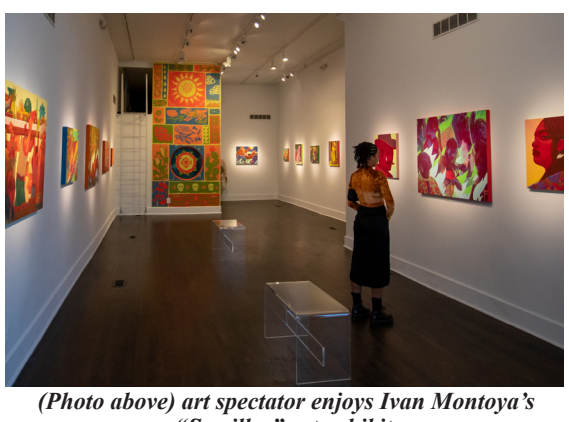
A native of Southwest Detroit, Ofelia Saenz is a writer, marketer and food entrepreneur. Now that her son Ruben is off to college, she's working to teach her Chihuahua/Pekingese, Memo, to be less messy and more friendly. She makes killer tamales.

Ivan Montoya's "Semillas" exhibit opened at Playground Detroit on October 22nd and runs through November 19th

Maximiliano Montoya (left, Ivan's Brother) and Jorge Montoya (right, Ivan's dad), replicating painting

(Photo on right) Ritmo de Noche, 36"x48", 2022

(Photo on left) Setting of the Altar 36"x48", 2022



(Photo above) art spectator enjoys Ivan Montoya's "Semillas" art exhibit.

(Photo on Right) Con Ganas (Steadfast), 24"x30", 2022 as a child, Montoya often fished with his dad using a fishing line while his father would simply tie a string to a glass bottle, just as he did when he was a boy. His father always caught the bigger fish, Montoya muses. "Con Ganas" reflects the spirit of resourcefulness that abounds in immigrant culture

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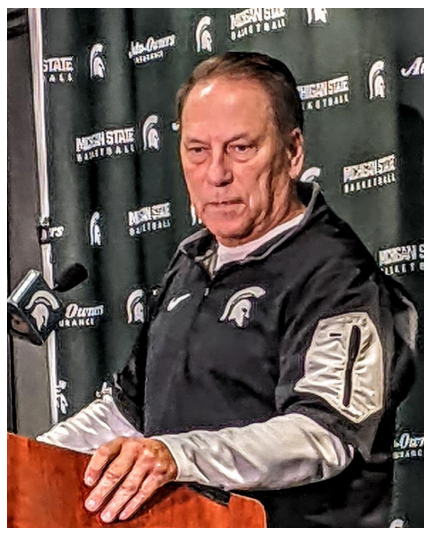
This past week, the University of Michigan Wolverines, Michigan State Spartans, Oakland Univeristy Golden Grizzlies, and University of Detroit Mercy Titans, held their media days, in preparation of the 2022-2023 season. Photos provided by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos below are highlights from each teams media days

Wolverines head coach Juwan Howard, talks to media, during their media day

Wolverines G #25 Jace Howard, talks to media, during media their media day

Spartans returning starter F #10 Joey Hauser, talks to media, during their media day



Spartans head coach Tom Izzo, talks to media, during their media day

Wolverines G #2 Kobe Bufkin, talks to media, during their media day

Wolverines returning starter C #1 Hunter Dickinson, talks to media, during their media day

Spartans F #25 Malik Hall, talks to media, during their media day

Spartans G #3 Jaden Akins, talks to media, during their media day

(L-R) Golden Grizzlies players F #4 Trey Townsend, G #11 Blake Lampman, G #34 Jalen Moore and G #3 Rocket Watts, watch head coach Greg Kampe (C) balance basketball on his finger, during media day

U of D Mercy Titans Womens basketball new head coach Kate Achter and star player senior G #0 Imani McNeal, during their media day

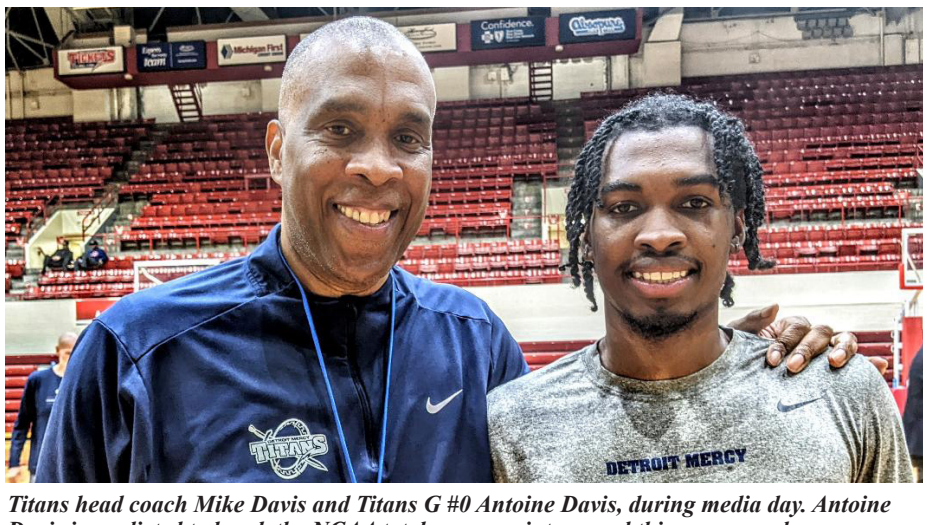
Titans head coach Mike Davis, talks to media, during their media day

Titans dribbling exercise, during their media day

Golden Grizzlies scrimage during media day

Golden Grizzlies G #3 Rocket Watts, talks to media, during their media day. Watts (from Pontiac, MI), previously played at Michigan State and Mississippi State

Golden Grizzlies head coach Greg Kampe, talks to media, during their media day



Titans head coach Mike Davis and Titans G #0 Antoine Davis, during media day. Antoine Davis is predicted to break the NCAA total career points record this season and pre-season pick for the Horizon League MVP

Photos provided by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Detroit City Gets The Blues In Memphis

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David Levine
EL CENTRAL

After a terrific run as a first year team in the USL Championship, Detroit City FC's season came to an abrupt halt last weekend. Visiting the Eastern Conference's second seed was never going to be easy. DCFC had already lost at Autozone Park 2-0 over the summer. Facing former coach Ben Pirmann threw another twist in the tale. Pirmann knows the club well after coaching six years here. He has built a solid program in Tennessee and they will be a tough game for anyone.

DCFC didn't let Memphis off easy in this game. City goalkeeper Nate Steinwascher made his customary series of splendid saves in the first half. His heroics were only topped by a stunning lunge from captain Stephen Carroll to deflect a shot over the bar when Memphis should have scored. The biggest problem Pirmann had at halftime was figuring out how his team wasn't two or three goals ahead. That's not to say it was all one way traffic. City had their chances. Yazeed Mathews lobbed a shot over the bar in the first ten minutes and Connor Rutz forced Memphis goalkeeper Trey Muse into a full length save to stop a curling shot from heading into the top corner.

A scoreless first half has become typical of this City team. They just don't get rolling until the second half much of the time. Coach Trevor James will have to address a number of things during the off-season and slow starts are just one of them. City did pick up the tempo during a more even second half. Still, Memphis made a breakthrough when City's midfield got caught too far forward and left the back three unprotected. A quick break ensued, with Carroll not well placed to handle it. Matt Lewis and MIchael Bryant collapsed toward the middle and left Chris Allan unmarked. He beat Steinwascher to open the scoring on 72 minutes.

City's reply came swiftly. Deklan Wynne picked out Mathews, whose first touch looked clumsy, but set up an unanticipated outside of the right foot roller that found the corner of the goal. Memphis' lead had last barely five minutes. Given City's propensity for ties, extra time looked inevitable. Unfortunately, Memphis caught City's defense uncharacteristically unaware from a free kick in midfield and Graham Smith headed in what would be the winner two minutes from time. The hosts added an insurance goal in stoppage time as City desperately pushed forward to make the final 3-1 in a game that was much closer.

As the minutes ticked away, Trevor James looked down his bench and couldn't find Pato Botello Faz and Brad Dunwell, both unavailable. That limited his attacking options. Mackey Diop, back from a many month absence during his loan from Birmingham, came on and was ineffective. James didn't even give Francis Atuahene a chance to test his speed against the Memphis back line. In addition to slow starts, roster depth will have to be addressed. The club has increased ticket prices ever so slightly in an effort to increase the budget and reflect the higher standards of the league in which they now compete. The dividends from that adjustment won't be realized until next season.

Overall, 2022 will be remembered as a massive success. Attendance at Keyworth Stadium was near capacity for most home games and the win over the Columbus Crew in the Open Cup will be known as a massive moment for the club. Having the intense atmosphere broadcast nationwide and worldwide on various ESPN networks brought the club new attention. Other than the men's first team, the women's team competed well in the USL W League over the summer and the youth programs are growing by leaps and bounds. DCFC has become a major fixture on the Detroit sports scene and will be looking to move forward to more prominence in years to come.

Detroit City FC Lose To Memphis 901 FC !!!

Last Saturday, Detroit City FC lost, to Memphis 901 FC, 3-1, at Autozone Park, in Memphis, TN, in the quarter finals of the USL Championship Playoffs.

Photos below are highlights from Detroit City FC vs. Memphis 901 FC

Photos provided by Detroit City FC (photographer Jon DeBoer) and Memphis 901 FC

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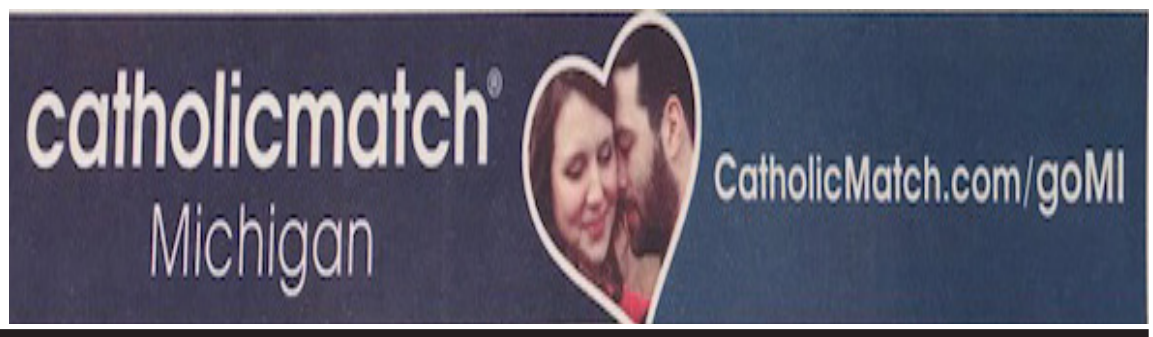

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EDITORIAL OPINION

"Hispanics, Democrats or Republicans?"

By Raoul Lowery Contreras

Here we go again. The political focus on what Hispanics will do in the November 8 election by media tarot card readers.

Anglo reporters talk to a handful of people in South Florida, a couple of partisan hacks with PhDs and talk about a South Texas county with 14,000 people.

Once in a while someone points out that of the 62 million Hispanics in the country, the vast majority, over 60%, are of Mexican origin. They hold in their hands a gob of presidential electoral votes.

There is only one state in which non-Mexican Hispanics can seriously influence a statewide vote count; that is Florida where Cubans and South Americans are a solid voting block that can direct 29 electoral votes. The Cubans and other Hispanics changed the solid Democrat tradition they found. With Cuban help the state has gone solidly Republican at the state level and pulled away from Democrats by voting for Donald Trump.

By contrast, Mexican Americans in California have swamped Republicans since Governor Pete Wlson flooded televisions with masses of "illegal aliens" swarming across the border. Of course, the TV spots were not of Mexicans flooding California, they were of Moroccoans fleeing Morocco into Spanish enclaves in an attempt to escape poverty.

The problem was Wilson's financial and political support of an unconstitutional state ballot proposal that would have denied every single Mexican American in California, millions of them, constitutional rights that we are all born with.

The proposition was so illegal that seven, repeat, seven state and federal judges enjoined the proposition from being enforced in the days following the election.

In California, millions of Mexican origin people directly influence who gets California 53 electoral votes -- one fifth of the votes needed to elect a president.

When reporters, writers and researchers look into the Hispanic vote the first thing they should do is remember this, there are more people of Mexican origin in sight of Los Angeles City Hall than all the Cubans and Puerto Ricans living in the 49 other states together.

Moreover, there are growing populations of them in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, Colorado, Oregon, Washington state and Nevada. Most are not immigrants, they are native born American citizens.

In Nevada, the Mexican American population is growing so fast that predictions abound that Clark County -- Las Vegas -- is projected to be 50% Hispanic perhaps before the next census in 2030.

Location, location…location.

People that tell us what is going on in Hispanic America need to look at the various states where Hispanics live, not just South Texas and Miami.

They need to conduct focus groups in the various counties and states to truly examine the political atmosphere -- in a proper context.

They need to know and understand the history of ethnic and immigrant groups that have come to the U.S. since Irish Catholics started coming in the 1840's.

They need to understand that many characteristics of various Hispanic "national" groups can be seen in previous immigration from Italy and Eastern Europe. There's not a whole lot of difference between the experiences of Italian and Eastern European immigrants and Mexicans and other immigrants from south of the U.S. border.

Religious solidarity in some cases, for example. Most Eastern European immigrants were Jews who needed to escape pogroms and extinction. Immigrants from Tierra del Fuego north brought their Catholicism with them as did the immigrants from Italy's.

Though Jews and Catholics have been in Colonial America and the United States since the 1600's they never were in large numbers until the 19th Century immigration flood from Ireland, Italy and Eastern Europe landed in America.

But Catholicism from the Spanish colonies in the Caribbean and Spain was in America before there was a Colonial America. Catholic services were held in what is now Florida and New Mexico in the 1540s. Jesuit missions were established around what is now the Washington D. C. area 60 plus years before an English colonizer set foot on the American continent.

Coming to America has historic commonalities among the various immigrant groups.

The Irish Catholics became Democrats first, so did the Italians and Eastern Europeans. Traditionally, immigrants to America became Democrats because they mostly came as poor looking for opportunity or some religious liberty. Over time, however, their children and grandchildren became Republicans.

The same is true of Hispanic immigrants. They came as Catholics and some have drifted off to Protestantism. Ditto their politics. Democrats first and then Republican.

Education and upward economic mobility. These pure American factors work every time over time.

Opinions in this Article are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

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4 SAVE THE DATE
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Salud/*Health*

3 Steps to Take for Better Health This Fall

(StatePoint) As people return to their fall routines, economic concerns are top of mind, and many are finding themselves spending more time worrying about the health of their things than the health of themselves.

According to new research by MDLIVE, an Evernorth company and leading provider of virtual care services, most people (67%) view fall as a time to get back into routines, pointing to reprioritizing schedules, getting kids started in the new school year and prepping for winter. However, only 20% of people say they are on top of routine doctor visits. Instead, they're prioritizing the health of their homes (71%) and their cars (63%), more so than are focused on routine, preventive care for their personal health (57%).

Why are Americans so avoidant when it comes to caring for their physical wellness? Time, or lack of it, is one major factor. Despite 56% of people recognizing that putting off personal health affects how well they can care for other aspects of their lives, 47% say they put off routine health tasks because they are too busy. Another factor is cost -- 39% of respondents say prioritizing health would be too expensive or force them to dip into money they have earmarked for other things.

"The majority of people with employer-sponsored health insurance have access to low-cost or no-cost preventive care, and millions can now access routine preventive care virtually through their health plan," said Dr. Vontrelle Roundtree, interim chief medical officer, MDLIVE. "It's incredibly convenient to fit into busy schedules and enables people to stay on top of important preventive care like wellness screenings and chronic care management."

According to Dr. Roundtree, there are three simple steps people can take as part of a fall preventive health routine that are low-cost and require little time:

1. Keep up on vaccines: Some experts predict a challenging flu season combined with the risk of other infectious diseases, all while bracing for a potential COVID surge. It's critical to get your flu shot and stay current on COVID boosters.

2. Stay current on screenings: Routine screenings are the first line of defense against many common illnesses, and addressing early signs of those conditions can often keep them from becoming chronic. However, since the start of COVID, screening rates for a number of conditions have fallen. Take an inventory of any overdue doctor visits or preventive care,

such as screenings for breast and cervical, colorectal and skin cancer, and make the time to get them done.

Check your health plan to see your options, such as virtual wellness screenings that can save you a trip to the doctor's office and may be available to you at a $0 copay depending on your health plan. For example, MDLIVE, a leading U.S. provider of virtual health care services, offers convenient, affordable access to medical and behavioral health care 24/7 from the comfort of home. More than 62 million individuals nationwide have access to the service as a covered benefit through their health plans and employers. To learn more, visit mdlive.com.

3. Take control of chronic conditions: Those living with chronic conditions should review their medications and dosages with their doctor to ensure they are up to date and to determine if anything should be changed or stopped.

"The fall season, with its focus on fresh starts, is the perfect opportunity to turn your attention to preventive healthcare," says Dr. Roundtree. "After all, your health is your most valuable asset."

Estos son los síntomas del cáncer de mama que no se deben ignorar

Año con año el cáncer de mama provoca miles de muertes alrededor del mundo. Muchos de los casos, desafortunadamente, se pudieron evitar si los síntomas no hubieran sido ignorados, pero… ¿cuáles son y cómo detectarlos? A continuación lo detallamos.

Para poder detectar el cáncer de mama, la autoexploración es una acción que resulta de gran importancia, pues esta práctica de vital importancia podría ser el primer paso para saber si todo está en orden o si es necesario visitar a un especialista para tener un diagnóstico más a detalle. Entre las anomalías que se pueden encontrar en una autoexploración y que no deben ser ignoradas se encuentran:

- **Bulto en el seno o la axila (podría no provocar dolor y suele ser dura con bordes irregulares)**
- **Cambios en el tamaño y forma del seno**
- **Protuberancias (pequeños granitos) en la piel o pezón con aspecto escamoso y rojizo**
- **Piel de naranja (hoyuelos) en la zona del seno**
- **Retracción de los pezones**
- **Secreción del pezón sin ser por leche materna**
- **Hinchazón de ganglios linfáticos**
- **Dolor en cualquier parte de la mama**
- **Irritación**

De acuerdo al American Cancer Society, los síntomas mencionados pueden ser provocados por otras enfermedades distintas al cáncer de mama, sin embargo es importante realizar la autoexploración, pues, de encontrarlos, (si no es cáncer) se debe conocer la causa que los provocó.

De la misma forma, la institución señalada establece que los síntomas que se puedan hallar (por la autoexploración) no reemplaza a las mamogramas ni a otras pruebas de detección de cáncer de mama.

Para poder tener un tratamiento más eficaz, descubrir el cáncer en una etapa temprana es relevante, incluso si aparentemente todavía no ha aparecido algún síntoma.

Google

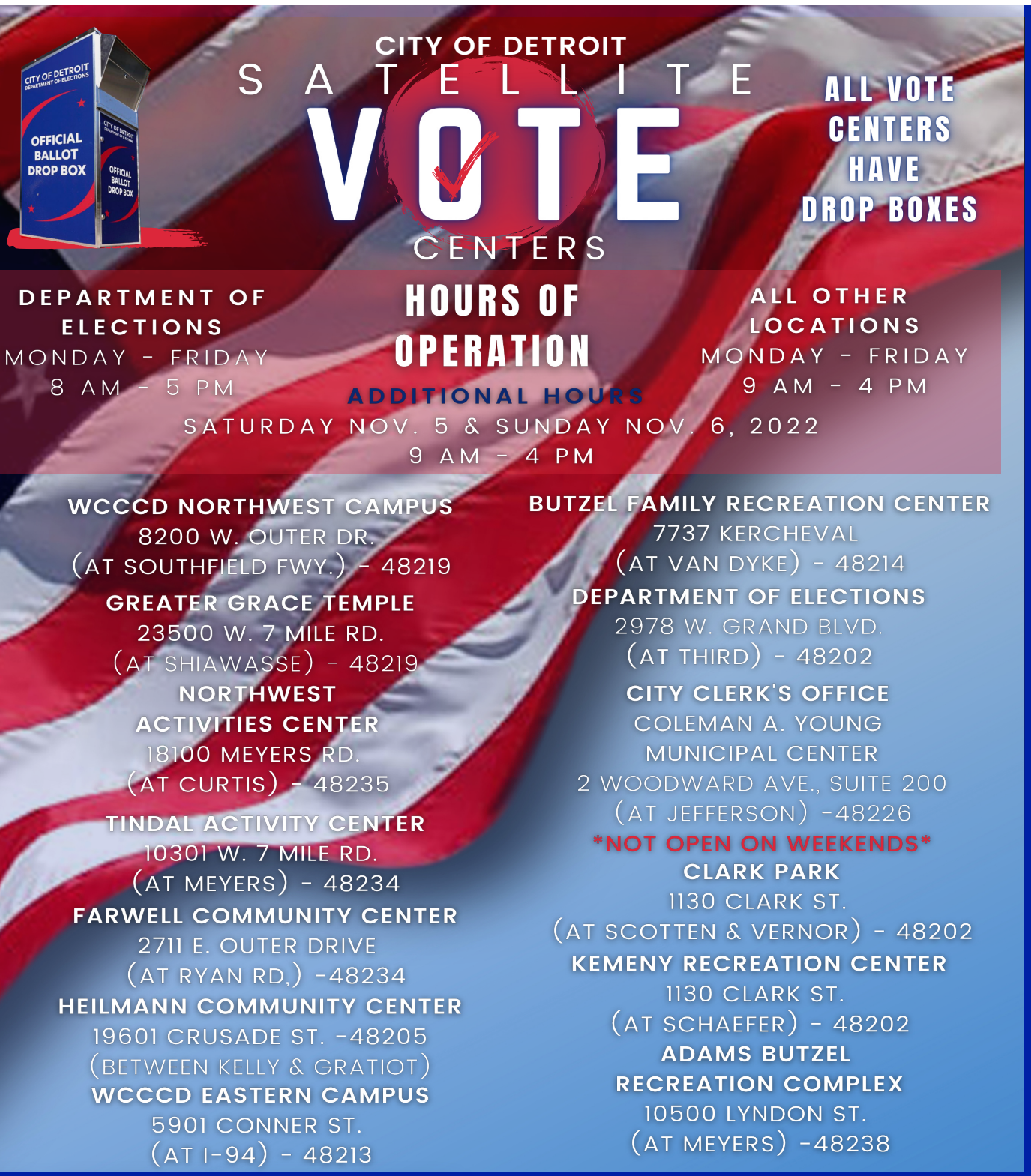
Un periodista buscaba amplificar las voces de las comunidades de color en Minnesota

Por eso, Mukhtar M. Ibrahim fundó Sahan Journal, una organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a cubrir asuntos importantes para las comunidades de inmigrantes y otras comunidades desatendidas.

Luego de participar en el programa de ingresos ganados en Google, el sitio de noticias experimentó un incremento de más del 830% en sus ganancias publicitarias. Y ahora, con apoyo adicional, Sahan Journal está liderando un esfuerzo colaborativo para llegar a una audiencia más amplia con noticias en español, somalí y hmong.

Conoce más sobre cómo Google apoya las noticias locales en g.co/noticiaslocales

I DON'T LIKE LOOKING PEOPLE IN THE EYE
Jacob Sanchez
Diagnosed with autism
Lack of eye contact is a sign of autism.
Learn the others at autismspeaks.org/signs.
AUTISM SPEAKS


CITY OF DETROIT
SATELLITE
VOTE
CENTERS
OFFICIAL BALLOT DROP BOX
ALL VOTE CENTERS HAVE DROP BOXES
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8 AM - 5 PM
HOURS OF OPERATION
ADDITIONAL HOURS
SATURDAY NOV. 5 & SUNDAY NOV. 6, 2022
9 AM - 4 PM
ALL OTHER LOCATIONS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
9 AM - 4 PM
WCCCD NORTHWEST CAMPUS
8200 W. OUTER DR.
(AT SOUTHFIELD FWY.) - 48219
GREATER GRACE TEMPLE
23500 W. 7 MILE RD.
(AT SHIAWASSE) - 48219
NORTHWEST ACTIVITIES CENTER
18100 MEYERS RD.
(AT CURTIS) - 48235
TINDAL ACTIVITY CENTER
10301 W. 7 MILE RD.
(AT MEYERS) - 48234
FARWELL COMMUNITY CENTER
2711 E. OUTER DRIVE
(AT RYAN RD,) -48234
HEILMANN COMMUNITY CENTER
19601 CRUSADE ST. -48205
(BETWEEN KELLY & GRATIOT)
WCCCD EASTERN CAMPUS
5901 CONNER ST.
(AT I-94) - 48213
BUTZEL FAMILY RECREATION CENTER
7737 KERCHEVAL
(AT VAN DYKE) - 48214
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS
2978 W. GRAND BLVD.
(AT THIRD) - 48202
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
2 WOODWARD AVE., SUITE 200
(AT JEFFERSON) -48226
NOT OPEN ON WEEKENDS
CLARK PARK
1130 CLARK ST.
(AT SCOTTEN & VERNOR) - 48202
KEMENY RECREATION CENTER
1130 CLARK ST.
(AT SCHAEFER) - 48202
ADAMS BUTZEL RECREATION COMPLEX
10500 LYNDON ST.
(AT MEYERS) -48238
FREE STANDING DROP BOXES
WCCCD DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
1001 W. FORT ST. (AT LAFAYETTE)- 48226
NORTH ROSEDALE PARK COMMUNITY HOUSE
18445 SCARSDALE (NEAR PURITAN) - 48223
SPECIAL NOTE: ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2022, PER MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW, ABSENTEE VOTING CEASES AT 4:00 PM AT ALL LOCATIONS
MESSIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
8100 W. 7 MILE RD. (AT LIVERNOIS) - 48221
RENAISSANCE BAPTIST CHURCH
1045 E. GRAND BLVD. (AT E. FOREST) - 48207
LIBERTY TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
17188 GREENFIELD RD. (AT. MCNICHOLS) - 48235
ROUGE PARK GOLF COURSE
11701 BURT RD. (OUTER DR. & PLYMOUTH) -48228
DETROIT PISTONS PERFORMANCE CENTER
690 AMSTERDAM ST. (AT SECOND AVE.) - 48202

Festival de Otoño

Esperanza Para Sobrevivientes

Únase a nuestro evento anual Esperanza Para Sobrevivientes
¡Familiar, gratis y abierto al público!

Sábado 29 de octubre 2022
10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

CHASS Center | 5635 West Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48209

Camine por el Festival de Otoño para conocer el trabajo que el programa de LA VIDA está haciendo para poner fin a la violencia de género en nuestra comunidad.

- **¡Camine por los diferentes vehículos decorados y recoja golosinas!**
- **Vista de púrpura para protestar contra la violencia doméstica.**
- **Ahuyenta el abuso vistiéndose con su disfraz favorito y decorando su vehículo.**
- **¡Golosinas, estaciones de recursos, regalos y más!**

Para obtener más información, llame a:
LA VIDA *Partnership* al 313.849.3920 ext. 5060 | www.chasscenter.org

CHASS Community Health And Social Services Center

LA VIDA

chasscenter.org

Trunk or Treat!

Bringing Hope To Survivors

Join our annual Bringing Hope to Survivors event: family friendly, free and open to the public!

Saturday, October 29, 2022
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

CHASS Center | 5635 West Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48209

Learn about the work LA VIDA Partnership is doing to end gender-based violence in our community.

- **Walk by the different decorated trunks and collect goodies!**
- **Wear purple to protest domestic violence.**
- **Scare away abuse by dressing up in your favorite costume and decorating your car.**
- **Treats, resource stations, giveaways and more!**

For more information contact:
LA VIDA Partnership at 313.849.3920 ext. 5060 | www.chasscenter.org

CHASS Community Health And Social Services Center

LA VIDA